

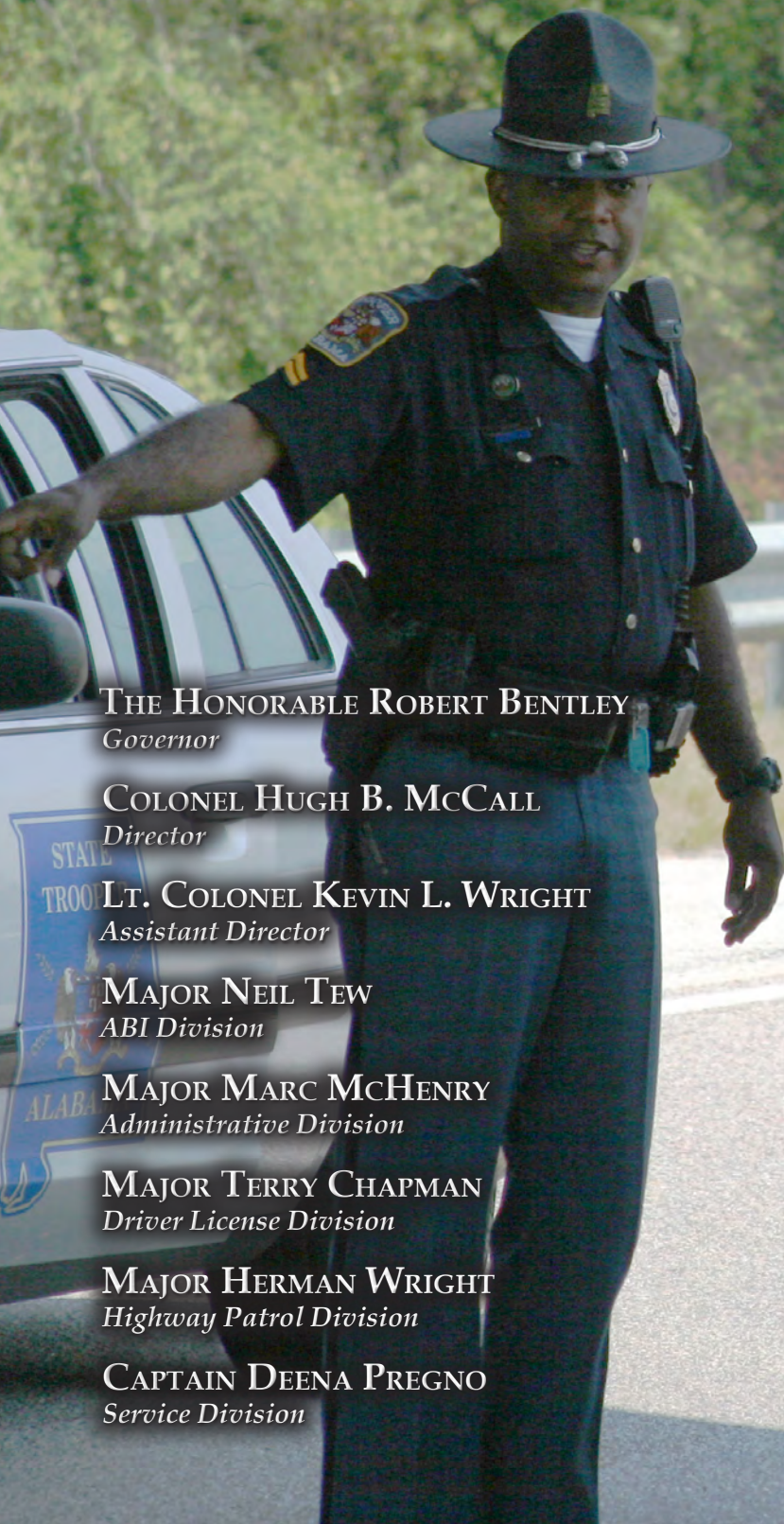


The official monthly publication of the Alabama Department of Public Safety



THE BLUE LIGHT

AUGUST 2011



THE HONORABLE ROBERT BENTLEY
Governor

COLONEL HUGH B. McCALL
Director

LT. COLONEL KEVIN L. WRIGHT
Assistant Director

MAJOR NEIL TEW
ABI Division

MAJOR MARC McHENRY
Administrative Division

MAJOR TERRY CHAPMAN
Driver License Division

MAJOR HERMAN WRIGHT
Highway Patrol Division

CAPTAIN DEENA PREGNO
Service Division



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-3282

STATE OF ALABAMA

June 27, 2011

Col. Hugh McCall
Director, Department of Public Safety
301 South Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Col. McCall,

Please accept my appreciation of your efforts in assisting our citizens during the aftermath of the April tornado outbreak. The Department of Public Safety played a key role in providing security and operational support throughout the affected areas. The fact that there were no reports of major security issues in the aftermath of such a widespread and devastating tragedy is a credit to the unprecedented cooperation between our state's law enforcement agencies.

Please pass along my appreciation to your entire Department.

Sincerely,


Robert Bentley



From left, Bobbie Fuller, Reba Thompson, Regina Hardy and Denise Allison.

ARA Honors Examiners, DL Specialists of Quarter

The Alabama Department of Public Safety and the Alabama Retail Association in their continuing partnership to curtail driver license fraud presented the 2011 Examiner of the Quarter and Driver License Specialist of the Quarter Awards for the first and second quarters July 28 at DPS Headquarters.

On hand to present the awards, ARA President Rick Brown said, "We are here recognizing your efforts at detecting fraudulent activity

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and going the extra mile to fight deceptive criminals. Since we began this program in 2000, driver license arrests have jumped 276 percent, largely thanks to your many skilled examiners and driver license specialists."

Bobbie Fuller was named Examiner of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2011, and Reba Thompson received the award for the second quarter. Winning the Driver License Specialist of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2011 was

Regina Hardy while Denise Allison claimed the second quarter award.

Identification fraud is one of the leading forms of robbery, costing financial institutions, businesses, governments and consumers almost \$50 billion annually. Examiners working in the Department of Public Safety are on the frontline every day combating fraud and protecting individuals from identity theft.



DPS Legislative Package Update: '11



From left, Sen. Rusty Glover, Lt. Col. Kevin L. Wright, Maj. Herman Wright and Rep. Paul DeMarco watch as Gov. Robert Bentley signs House Bill 361 into law.

The signing of House Bill 361 made Alabama the 50th state to enact an ignition interlock law and highlights several revisions brought about by the 2011 Legislative Session.

The ignition interlock law requires repeat DUI offenders and first-time offenders with BAC of .15 or greater to have devices installed in their vehicles that will prevent the vehicles from starting without first blowing into a Breathalyzer.

While the law will not eliminate alcohol-related crashes, it could significantly reduce them. In Alabama, there are 54,043 people with three or more DUI convictions and 22,306 with five or more convictions. Approximately one-third of Alabama's traffic fatalities are linked to alcohol.

Legislation Summary: *What Does It All Mean?*

HB56

Act No. 2011-535

Effective date: Sept. 1, 2011

This act requires all state agencies to fully cooperate with federal immigration authorities in the enforcement of federal immigration laws in order to prevent illegal immigration. It requires the verification of the legal status of persons in certain circumstances, requires verification of the legal status of every alien charged with a crime for which bail is required, requires law enforcement to detain any alien whose lawful immigration status cannot be verified under certain conditions, and amends Section 32-6-9 of the Code of Alabama 1975 relating to driver licenses.

HB361

Act No. 2011-613

Effective date: Sept. 1, 2011

This act increases the penalties for driving under the influence offenders by requiring certain persons authorized to drive a motor vehicle after a conviction of driving under the influence to have an ignition interlock device for a certain period of time. The Department of Public Safety is required to establish a special ignition interlock driver license and is authorized to establish the fee for this license. The act provides fees to cover the costs of the Department.

HB414

Act No. 2011-676

Effective date: June 15, 2011

House Bill 414 decreases the employer contribution to employee retirement and replaces that employer contribution with an increased employee contribution. Currently, civilian DPS employees who are active members of the retirement system pay 5 percent of their earnable compensation to their retirement. As of Oct. 1, 2011, that amount will increase to 7.25 percent. The following year, on Oct. 1, 2012, that amount will increase again to 7.5 percent. Troopers, however, will continue to contribute 10 percent of their earnable compensation to their retirement.

SB67

Act No. 2011-621

Effective date: Sept. 1, 2011

This legislation increases the penalty for driving under the influence with .15 percent or more by weight of alcohol in his or her blood. The Department of Public Safety is required to revoke the person's driver license for a period of not less than one year. Additionally, any person who gets a DUI is now required to attend a DUI or substance abuse court referral program, and DPS cannot issue the person a license without proof that this program has been completed.

SB72**Act No. 2011-27****Effective date: March 24, 2011**

This act repealed the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP). The last possible day to enter into DROP was March 24, 2011. Upon completion of DROP, participants who do not withdraw from service will earn interest on their benefit deposits at the lesser of the Retirement Systems of Alabama's investment performance the preceding year or 4 percent. Also, SB309 states that if a participant does not withdraw from state service upon completion of DROP, his or her retirement date will no longer be the date that he or she entered DROP. Therefore, the provisions of SB309 (see below) will apply to the participant.

SB137**Act No. 2011-688****Effective date: Some sections June 14, 2011 and others Jan. 1, 2013**

This act establishes an online insurance verification program through the Department of Revenue for mandatory liability insurance. Both law enforcement and the Department of Revenue will now be able to electronically verify whether or not a person has motor vehicle liability insurance or another method of financial responsibility allowed by law. DPS is required to provide to the Department of Revenue the name of any owner or operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident without liability insurance who is determined not to be subject to suspension under Alabama Code Section 32-7-6. Also, DPS must provide to the Department of Revenue the name of any owner or operator who has been found in violation of Alabama Code Section 32-7A-16.

SB185**Act No. 2011-628****Effective date: July 1, 2011**

This law allows for the use of electronic tickets for misdemeanor non-traffic violations.

SB252**Act No. 2011-635****Effective date: June 9, 2011**

SB252 authorizes the Department of Public Safety to use the transfer of money it receives from the Public Road and Bridge Fund of the Department of Transportation for operations of the Department for fiscal years ending Sept. 30, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

SB253**Act No. 2011-205****Effective date: Jan. 1, 2012**

This law establishes a license plate category for mini-trucks and exempts them from certificate of title requirements. It also defines what type of vehicle qualifies as a mini-truck and prohibits them from being driven on interstate highways.

SB289**Act No. 2011-638****Effective date: June 9, 2011**


This legislation removes the requirement that the operators of certain commercial motor vehicles carry in the vehicle and produce on demand their certification in proper load securement.

SB296**Act No. 2011-640****Effective date: July 1, 2011**

This act repeals the old Alabama sex offender laws, found in various parts of the Code of Alabama 1975, and is known as the Alabama Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Act. It closes many of the loopholes in the old law and brings Alabama into compliance with the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. As a result, the

state will avoid losing 10 percent of its federal Byrne Grant funding. The act requires more frequent registration and verification and requires the state to maintain all sex offender registration in a digitized format, among other things.

SB309**Act No. 2011-698****Effective date: June 14, 2011**

This law applies to any person who retires after Dec. 31, 2011. The employer contribution for non-Medicare eligible retirees, regardless of the number of years of service, will be reduced by a percentage equal to 1 percent multiplied by the difference between the Medicare entitlement age (currently 65) and the age of the employee at the time of retirement (as determined by the board). This reduction in the employer share will cease upon notification to the State Employees' Insurance Board of the retiree attaining Medicare coverage. Additionally, the employer contribution to the health insurance premium for those employees who retire after Dec. 31, 2011, will be reduced by 4 percent for each year of service less than 25 years. If the employee works more than 25 years, the employer contribution to the health insurance premium will be increased by 2 percent a year over 25 years. However, the employer contribution may not exceed 100 percent of the total health insurance premium. This legislation does contain a provision to lessen the effects for those individuals who have an annual income of 300 percent or less of the federal poverty level. The date a participant entered DROP is the participant's retirement date provided that the employee does not voluntarily terminate participation in DROP during the first three years and that the employee withdraws from service at the end of his or her DROP participation period. 

New Screeners in Use in Huntsville

Madison County License Director Mark Craig purchased five new Titmus Vision Screeners for use by Driver License personnel at the Huntsville Driver License examining office.

Valued at \$15,000, the new vision screeners are replacing outdated equipment that has been in use for 20 years or longer.

Lt. Darrell Campbell, Sgt. Jeremy Cantrell and Cpl. Jason Osborne assisted Craig in selecting the equipment purchased for the department. Four new units are currently being used in the Huntsville office with the fifth being used at Redstone Arsenal office.

"Receiving new Driver License equipment is monumental," said Campbell. "Were it not for Mark Craig's generosity, we would still be using the same equipment we've been using for the past two decades. We are very grateful for this much-needed donation."



From left, Sgt. Jeremy Cantrell, Lt. Darrell Campbell and Mark Craig proudly display new vision screeners to be used in Huntsville DL.

Motor Carrier Holds CSA Phase II Training



From left, Tpr. Mike Griffies, Cpl. Gary Stratton, Steff Copeland, Missouri DOT Senior Enforcement Investigator, Tpr. Johnny Williams, Cheryl Bonham, Georgia DPS Motor Carrier Compliance Officer, and Jeff Langloss, U.S. DOT Federal Program Manager, Texas Division.

The Motor Carrier Safety Administration held the second phase of their Compliance Safety Accounting training July 21 at DPS Headquarters.

CSA is the new method on which motor carriers are graded and rated. The focus of the class was to train investigators on the changes being implemented in the new set of standards for conducting compliance reviews.

Attending the class were Cpl. Gary Stratton, Tprs. Mike Griffies and Johnny Williams, Alabama Division Administrator Theresa Williams Jones, and Safety Investigators Jake Davis, Kenny Price, Keith LeMaster, Leander Pickens and federal investigators.

Dignitary Protection Trains with U.S. Capitol Police

Participants were anything but bored during a recent three-day dignitary protection program for sworn members of Public Safety's Dignitary Protection Unit.

With two dignitary protection officers from Washington, D.C., leading the way, the group jumped right into the training July 13 with a motorcade, mock news conference and more at both the new Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center and Craig Field facilities in Selma.

Supervisory Special Agents Gregory Hetrick and George McCree of Dignitary Protection Division of the United States Capitol Police (USCP) were there to share their many years of "boots to the ground" experience in protection and extensive knowledge of advance site

preparation, said Lt. Joe McClellan, commander of DPS's Dignitary Protection Unit.

Through the years, DPS has supported the USCP's protective missions during the annual civil rights tour and other high-profile visits from federal-level dignitaries. Because of this long-standing positive working relationship, McClellan said the dream of bringing these highly trained USCP agents to the state to train DPS personnel became a reality.

The three-day program offered students a different perspective, giving them challenging scenarios through practical or table-top exercises that tasked students with thinking on their feet and formulating plans of action based on the information

provided.

With the full support of Maj. Marc McHenry, chief of the Administrative Division, and the ACJTC's accommodating staff, McClellan said the course was a great success. Special guest Lt. Gov. Kay Ivey even stopped by to observe.

Lt. Mark Whitaker, commander of DPS's Capitol Police Unit, said several of that unit's officers also had an opportunity to be part of the program.

During the training, participants not only learned how to run a protective detail with limited resources, but they left with tools to enhance their abilities to provide the best possible protection to whomever they are assigned.

Gymnasium Construction Breaks Ground at ACJTC



The second phase of the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center broke ground in Selma in July.

The newest addition to the facility that opened its doors on the campus of Wallace Community College Selma last September will bring a gymnasium and running track to the six-building complex.



Harris to Compete in North American Inspectors Championship

Tpr. Jason Harris was chosen by the Motor Carrier Safety Unit to represent the Department of Public Safety at what could be described as the Super Bowl of commercial motor vehicle inspection.

The North American Inspectors Championship will convene Aug. 8-13, in Orlando, Fla., bringing commercial vehicle inspectors representing nearly every jurisdiction in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to compete for a coveted trophy and the chance to be named champion.

"It is the job that these enforcement officers perform each and every day that saves countless lives, making our country a safer place for everyone," said Capt. Steve Dowling, CVSA's president. "NAIC gives back to these inspectors an invaluable experience that broadens their understanding and, in many cases, deepens their passion

for ensuring highway safety."

Since its inception, CVSA actively focuses on enhancing the development and training programs available to roadside inspectors. Roadside inspectors are highly trained professionals who save lives every day by keeping unsafe CMVs and drivers off the roads. The work of a commercial vehicle inspector is not easy, but it is one of the most vital in public safety. Each year, CVSA recognizes the best of the best by inviting member jurisdictions throughout North America to participate in NAIC.

NAIC develops future leaders, strengthens industry and enforcement partnerships and promotes camaraderie between inspectors, jurisdictions and countries. This, in turn, ensures the quality, uniformity and reciprocity of the more than 4 million roadside inspections conducted each year

across North America. NAIC gives inspectors the chance to compete for top honors in individual event categories in pursuit of the Jimmy K. Ammons Grand Champion Award. The events sharpen their skills and provide a snapshot of the current roadside inspection environment as well as a forum to evaluate both successes and areas for improvement. Not only does NAIC recognize the best of the best CMV inspectors, it also provides member jurisdictions with a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their CMV safety programs.

An Alabama state trooper since 2003, Harris transferred to MCSU in 2008, where he is currently assigned to the Quad Cities Post. Harris holds certifications in North American Standards Level 1, NAS Hazardous Materials, NAS Passenger Vehicles and Drug Recognition Expert.



Trailer Wraps Heighten Visibility Around Trucks

The Motor Carrier Safety Unit has been busy wrapping semi-truck trailers to remind drivers the importance of safe driving around commercial vehicles.

Partnering with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Alabama Trucking Association, the unit has already wrapped six trailers, with three more to be wrapped in August. Funding is paid for with a federal TACT grant.

"The TACT program is a major step in the right direction," said ATA President Frank Filgo. "Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive."



THE SAFE WAY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

With the days of summer vacation winding down, and the beginning of another school year just around the corner, many Alabama families need a reminder about the importance of safety in the midst of the hustle and bustle of back-to-school preparedness.

With more children on the roadways in the morning and afternoon hours, the school year marks an increased risk of transportation injuries to children, and driver behavior should change to reflect these risks. Also, as the school year progresses and the days get shorter, fewer hours of daylight means reduced visibility of young pedestrians and bicyclists.

These suggestions from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can help every community enjoy a safe and happy school year.



Notes for Motorists

- » Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.
- » Always stop for a school bus that has stopped to load or unload passengers. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm tell you the school bus is stopped to load or unload children. State law requires you to stop.
- » Be alert and ready to stop.
- » Watch for children walking in the street, especially on roads without sidewalks.
- » Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops.
- » Watch for children arriving late for the bus. They may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- » When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.
- » When driving in neighborhoods or school zones, watch for young people who may be in a hurry to get to school and may not be thinking about getting there safely.

Tips for Parents

- » Help your children learn and practice the safety rules for walking, bicycling, or riding in a passenger car, school bus or transit bus.
- » Supervise young children as they are walking or biking to school or as they wait at the school bus stop.
- » Be a good role model, especially when you are with your kids. Always buckle up in the car, always wear a helmet when biking, and always follow pedestrian safety rules.

Tips for Teachers

- » Teach young children the safety rules for traveling to school, whether it be walking, bicycling, or riding in a motor vehicle or on a school bus. NHTSA has developed a variety of kid-friendly materials and teaching tools. These can be downloaded by going to NHTSA's Web site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov and clicking the traffic safety banner at the top of the page.
- » Support any "Getting to School Safely" activities sponsored by your school, the PTA/PTO or other community organizations.

- » Be a good role model. Always use your seat belt, wear a helmet when bicycling or riding a motorcycle and practice pedestrian safety rules.

Tips for Students

- » Always buckle up when you're riding in a car.
- » Always ride in the back seat. It's the safest place for young people.
- » Always wear a helmet and follow traffic safety rules when riding your bike.
- » If you ride a school bus, learn and practice the safety rules for waiting at the bus stop, getting on and off the bus, and riding the bus.
- » If you walk to school, learn and practice the safety rules for pedestrians. Always cross at cross walks, obey all traffic signs, traffic lights and safety patrol instructions.
- » Be a good role model for your younger brothers and sisters and friends, and help them learn and practice the safety rules.

Capitol Police Officers Complete Rifle Training



From left, Capitol Police Officers Michael Mosely, Gered White, James Earnhardt, and James Phillips.

Capitol Police Officers James Earnhardt, Michael Mosely, James Phillips and Gered White recently completed a 40-hour intensive training Patrol Rifle course conducted at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma.

The training consisted of safe handling and operation of a Bushmas-

ter .223 caliber patrol rifle. Training required the officers to fire from a variety of shooting positions, and they had to shoot qualifying scores in order to successfully pass the training school.

Also as part of training, the officers were required to perform the following: a weapons function test, loading and unloading drills, mal-

function clearing drills and disassembly and cleaning procedures.

“With heat indices at or above 100 degrees the entire week of training, these four officers endured a lot by just taking the course,” said Capitol Police Cpl. Tim Lagrone. “I’m very proud to say that they all succeeded in completing this training course.”

Bingham Welcomes Retirement

DPS wished Maj. F.A. “Bubba” Bingham well in his future endeavors at a retirement reception in his honor July 28 at RSA Headquarters in Montgomery.

Bingham celebrated his nearly 39 years of service with the department. Starting his career with DPS as a radio operator, Bingham became a state trooper in 1980 and worked his way up to eventually become director of Public Safety in 2010.



Troopers Promote Upcoming Ride

On July 28, Sgts. Steve Jarrett and David Steward and Tpr. Charles Dysart filmed a 30-second spot currently airing at Montgomery Biscuits games promoting the 2011 Memorial Ride on Aug. 28.

Sponsored by the Alabama State Trooper Association, the event helps the association provide fallen troopers' families with financial support and also honor troopers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. For more information or to register, please visit www.alabamatroopers.net or call (334) 265-2782.



People You Know!



Transfers

Charles Huggins	6.16.11	Lieutenant	ABI/Investigative Operations
James Morrow	6.16.11	Capitol Police Officer	ADM/Dignitary Protection

Resignations

Charles Anderson	6.24.11	Sergeant	HP/FAP
Kerry Gardner	6.30.11	PCO I	HP/Mobile
Jennifer Sanders	7.15.11	DL Examiner I	DL/Dothan

Expiration of Temporary Appointment

Danielle Humble	6.30.11	Clerical Aide	DL/Medical Unit
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This oil painting, titled "Final Salute," was created by Tpr. Jerry Thomas in the mid-1980s. Capt. George H. Jones, Honor Guard commander at the time, and Lt. Karl Wade commissioned the painting. For about 20 years, the painting was displayed in the lobby of the Selma Post, which was the Honor Guard headquarters. It then was donated to the department's museum, where it now hangs.

ALABAMA STATE TROOPER ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL RIDE 2011

**ENDING AT MONTGOMERY'S RIVERWALK STADIUM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

**STATEWIDE MOTORCYCLE RIDE IN HONOR OF ALABAMA
STATE TROOPERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

- ★ Riders will meet at starting points throughout the state and ride to Riverwalk Stadium in Montgomery
- ★ Memorial Service for Fallen Troopers at 1:00pm
- ★ Montgomery Biscuits baseball game at 2:05pm
- ★ Check www.alabamatroopers.net or call (334) 265-2782 for hotel information and additional event information.



WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS

State Troopers put their lives on the line each and every day to make Alabama a safer place to live for you and your families. When something happens to our State Troopers, their families are left not only emotionally but financially devastated. We need to make sure the loved ones of our State Troopers have some financial security. Proceeds from the 2011 Memorial Ride will supplement life insurance for our State Troopers. Your participation will help provide the peace of mind our Troopers and their families need and deserve.

Alabama Department of



Public Safety

CONTRIBUTING:

Capt. Marty Griffin, ABI

Chief Pilot Lee Hamilton, SER

Capt. Jack Clark, HP

Tpr. Greg Eubanks, ADM

Tommy Giles, Photography

Reserve Tpr. Tony Dickey

Robyn Bradley Litchfield

EDITOR:

Ryan Godfrey

RSA Criminal Justice Center Montgomery, Ala.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

STAY IN TOUCH WITH *THE BLUE LIGHT*.

PLEASE E-MAIL ALL REQUESTS TO:

RYAN.GODFREY@DPS.ALABAMA.GOV

On Your Calendar

Monday, September 5

Labor Day

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day

Friday, November 11

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving Day

August Academy Schedule

Basic Protection	Aug. 8-12
Excel 2007	10-11
Outlook & Webmail	12
Excel 2003	15-16
Motor Training	15-19
Word 2007	17-18
Internet Explorer 8	19
Giving Presentations	22
PowerPoint 2007	23-24
PowerPoint 2003	25-26
FBI Instructor Development	22-26
DPS In-service	29-31
Word 2003	30-31

To Whom It May Concern:

On July 25, I was stopped in Hokes Bluff by Tpr. Gary Mobley. During the stop, Tpr. Mobley displayed great people skills, was courteous and polite, but above all, he was very professional.

I would like to take a moment to thank all the troopers for the job they do, but above all, I would like to thank Tpr. Mobley for the professionalism he displayed and the respect he showed while doing his job. Thank you all for the job you do, and my God bless you all and keep you safe.

Thank you,

Darrell Smith